THE EXAMINER.

No. 9. *SUNDAY, FEBRUARY* 28, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 9.

NEW FEATURES OF THE WAR.

One of the natural effects of war is the increase of human prejudice. The violent passions always mislead the understanding, and nations at war with each other forget the causes and consequences of their dispute to indulge in petty abuse and in a mean hatred of their enemies individually as well as generally. European warfare has at length become a warfare of words as well as actions, and the intervals of the cannon are filled with a thousand vollies of invective. In short, the Battle of the Books is revived in all it's terror, and when England and France cannot fight with guns, they attack each other like little boys with clappers of paper.

It is miserable to see the eagerness with which the various editors seize upon every royal and official paper to crush it with the grasp of invetevacy. They overthrow one argument after another with the flattest contradiction: if they meet with a reasoning evidently unfounded, they call upon all Europe to listen with horror, and if they meet with a reasoning evidently true, they acknowledge their conviction by nothing but a more obstinate rage or a more malicious and constrained ridicule. Thus the criticism of politics has become void of every feeling of gentlemanly candour: the writers forget, that in making their rivals altogether foolish and contemptible, they lessen the difficulty and degrade the dignity of their own rivalry; their system of attack and defence has lost all it's grace because it has lost all it's calmness, and one would think that they never looked at their enemies but through the cannon-smoke, which renders every object black and disgusting.

Perhaps I am guilty of prejudice, when I think that the French are not so renowned as formerly for that universal gallantry, which threw a grace over all their actions national as well as domestic; but I would even wish to be guilty of a prejudice, when I cannot help thinking that with the usual contagion of bad example the English have caught from their neighbours that illiberality and pettiness of proceeding which has given to modern warfare so wretched and malicious an aspect. The times are certainly different from those, when the two enemies were eager to afford each other every little comfort characteristic of a generous hostility: the times are different from those, when by a kind of romantic feeling half amiable and half ludicrous, the officers of the English and French guards, at the battle of Fontenoy, pulled off their hats to each other and mutually insisted on receiving the first fire. If this was ridiculous, it was not diabolical. But in these matters the French appear to me to have no longer a character to lose. The Emperor by his pride and his violence, by his contemptible arrests of the visitors of his kingdom, by his infinitely contemptible arrests of helpless and terrified females, and by his tyrannical violations of the fire-sides of other countries, has broken that invisible bond which connected the most hostile nations by the involuntary feelings of human nature. This behaviour however was new to the English; it met with their execration. Alas, it has since met with their imitation! What will posterity say of my country, of England, the philosophic and the manly, of England in which the old age of liberty, like the saint banished to his island, has been driven to its last retreat, when it hears that we have made war with the very sick, with the very hospitals of our enemies, with human beings fainting under disease and death. The prohibition of the exportation of bark to France has been defended upon the plea that France is reduced to the situation of a garrison town, from which every supply, down to the common necessaries of life, may be cut off. But this is very false reasoning. A garrison town may be thus deprived, because it is supposed that it will sooner yield, because the town is aware of these deprivations, and because it consents to them according to the usages of war. But of what effect is the deprivation of the necessaries of sick men among the general population of the country but to irritate those who are healthy? Of what effect is this war with helpless men but to rouse the indignation of their friends and countrymen against so barbarous an enemy? There has been one argument produced for it, which ought to make every generous mind recoil. The sick and the dying, it is said, will be roused by their wants to make a last effort and to execrate the French Emperor who is the author of their miseries. What an ignorance of human nature does this reasoning exhibit? The want of bark in the French hospitals is to make men execrate their own country rather than their enemies! The want of bark in the French hospitals is to create revolt against the man, who has aggrandized and therefore flattered his country, and who by his artful representations has

rendered England hateful in it's eyes! And grant that it would create revolt, is this the proceeding of a great and generous enemy? Must we, instead of fighting nobly and fairly with a fellow-creature, exercise some diabolical art which in the midst of his sufferings shall make him turn his own hand against himself? Gracious God! Shall we withhold the last reviving draught from the parched lips of women and infants burning with fever? Shall we fight with the wives and children of our enemies, with diseased old age, with the innocent sufferings of babes, and the despair of mothers? I am sick of my country when it acts so inhumanly.

I had intended to devote this paper to the remarks of the *Moniteur* on the KING's Speech. I have commented upon them in the article under the head of London. The new features given to the war detained me by their singular deformity. With every wish to abstain from invective, and solecismatical as the idea may seem, I cannot but think that the present Ministry entered into office with too warm an admiration of the FRENCH EMPEROR. What they call vigour is a mere imitation of his acts of injustice and oppression. They think it necessary to fight injustice with injustice; but I certainly must imagine that this is merely opposing one bad weapon to another. It is using against devils the weapon of devils. They may hold it strange to be accused of admiring NAPOLEON: but let any body, from a Minister down to a scribbling schoolboy, ask himself whether he does not admire most those whom he imitates most.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, FEB. 5.—The Envoy Extraordinary of Persia, who had been in Paris several months, has returned to Ispahan.

FEB. 6.—The Emperor and King has raised to the rank of a Princess Mademoiselle Tascher, a relative of the Empress. This Princess has married the reigning Prince of Ahremberg. The marriage was celebrated last Monday at the apartments of the Queen of Holland, by the Cardinal Archbishop of Lyons, in presence of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress.

FEB. 6.—Last Thursday her Highness Antoinette Murat, niece of the Grand Duke of Berg, and declared a Princess, in the evening married the Prince of Hohenzollern. A magnificent ball was given upon the occasion, which was honoured with the presence of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress.

(From the Moniteur of February 3.)

On His Britannic Majesty's Speech the *Moniteur* observes,

This Speech reminds us of the famous Message of the 7th March. At that time it was intended to interrupt the peace, and now they wish to continue the war: at that time grievances were invented, and the same is done at [illegible] in this manner that the British Ministers in[illegible] of Great Britain, which enjoys neither any safety or independence; which formerly changed and turned Ministers out of place, and which now the Ministers renew and dismiss as they think proper. It is difficult to say whether it is more humbled by the abuses of authority, or the speeches delivered in Parliament. Can there be any thing more ridiculous than the lively concern which it is called upon to take in an operation, the object of which was to secure the fleet of Portugal. This fleet of Portugal consisted of ten miserable ships, four of which remain in the power of France, and six, badly fitted out, victualled, and manned, have accompanied the Prince Regent to the Brazils. France would not have put two battalions in motion to seize that fleet; but it was Lisbon, it was Oporto, those great depots of the British trade, which she desired to shut against the English. She has succeeded; and the Court of Lisbon, with no other object than to remain in its state of submission to Great Britain, and to deceive, has fallen a prey to its own treacherous duplicity.

"*We are further commanded to acquaint you, that the course which his Majesty had to pursue with respect to Portugal, was happily of a nature more congenial to the feelings of his Majesty, &c. &c.*

The magnanimity of the English appears now in the fullest height, and shines forth in all its lustre!—At the very moment when the Prince of the Brazils sacrifices his country to the will of England, the English take with main force the Island of Madeira: at the very moment they pretend to shelter the Prince under their baneful protection, the English Ministers make a declaration which covers him with disgrace, they lay open the duplicity of his conduct, and shut him out for ever from a reconciliation with France. Such proceedings neither correspond with the dignity of the English people, nor with the respect due to misfortune.

"*The Fleet of Portugal was destined by France to be employed as an instrument of vengeance against Great Britain,*" &c. &c.

As his Britannic Majesty offers up such fervent prayers in favour of a Roman Catholic Prince, we may indulge a hope that Divine Providence will inspire him with sentiments equally kind in favour of the three millions of Roman Catholics who are his subjects, who are persecuted in his name, and who for such a length of time have been harassed in a manner unprecedented in history. And whence will this augmentation of strength and splendour come—to a fugitive Prince who abandons three millions of subjects, the country of his ancestors, one of the finest countries and the most beautiful capital in Europe, in order to reign over eight hundred thousand Europeans scattered over vast deserts. If this be not cruel irony, we wish the King of England a like augmentation of force and splendour. Let him choose the East or West Indies, we do not think that France has the intention of opposing it. Is it possible, in truth, to make a Sovereign speak with less dignity?

"*It is with concern that his Majesty commands us to inform you, &c. &c. that his Majesty's endeavours, unhappily for the Turkish Empire, have been defeated by the machination of France, no less the enemy of the Porte than of Great Britain.*"

France is thus the enemy of the Porte. It was France which forced the passage of the Dardanelles; it was France which demanded that the forts which defend that passage should be given up to her; it was France which surprised Alexandria, and effected a landing in Egypt!—The Ministers, by putting such a phrase in his Britannic Majesty's mouth, were not aware of the consequences which should be drawn from thence against them; they were not aware that they unveiled all the imprudence of their policy; they were not aware of the suspicions which they raised with regard to the results of that pretended enmity of France against the Porte; not in Europe, but in Asia; not on the Danube and in the Dardanelles, but on the Euphrates and the Indus. They say that France is an enemy

to the Porte as well as of England, they have said that Russia is no friend to the Porte, but let them enumerate the means which they possess to defend against France and Russia, not the Danube and the Dardanelles, but the Euphrates and the Indus. You have given the signal of danger; you are answerable for the event. Were there in the Cabinet of London any such men as Lord Grenville (we name him because he cannot be suspected of any partiality to France); were there in the Cabinet of London any man capable of foreseeing future events, he would have been struck by a presentiment of the destruction of the English power, when he made use of that phrase.

"*But while the influence of France has been thus unfortunately successful in preventing the termination of existing hostilities, and is exciting war against this country, his Majesty commands us to inform you, that the King of Sweden has resisted every attempt to induce him to abandon his alliance with Great Britain,*" &c. &c.

His Britannic Majesty, if we believe the language which the Ministers put in his mouth, still animated by a lively concern in the fate of his Allies, will, no doubt, secure to the King of Sweden the same advantages as to the Prince Regent of Brazil; that is, an establishment in the other world, with an augmentation of power and splendour. He, in fact, promises him a colony to be added to St. Bartholomew. The utmost consistency undoubtedly prevails in the system of the English Administration. The Ministers do not pretend to be possessed of any means to save Sweden from the enmity of Russia, Denmark, and France. They had one, however, which was a peace. They say that they meant to assist Sweden with a subsidy; but, a subsidy will neither save the honour nor the crown of the King of Sweden. When Stockholm shall be in possession of the Russians, what benefit will therefrom arise to his Britannic Majesty?—We must repeat it, when an event is irrevocably fixed by the decrees of Providence, no human power can resist it—England was to reject the offer of peace.

"*The struggle will prove successful and glorious to Great Britain.*"

So the Ministers say; but there is not in England a man of sense who thinks so. England at first fought for Belgium, which alone could guarantee her alliance with Holland, and we have seen with what glory and success she came out of that struggle. She has since lost her influence over the greater part of the coast of the Mediterranean, and the Mouths of the Elbe and the Weser. We will not say all that we think, but it is easy to see what will be the result of the struggle which she has the imprudence to prolong; peace will one day arrive, for the odious passions are of short duration, and in a nation which has energy, reason will sooner or later overcome the caprice of authority. But then events of such a nature will have taken place, that England will find herself without a barrier for her most important possessions, &c. the principal source of her riches, as she found herself without a barrier on the Elbe after the fourth coalition.

Upon that part of Lord Galloway's speech, in which his Lordship asserted that France proposes to Britain an armed truce, which she calls peace, the *Moniteur* makes the following remarks:—

One can neither find any trace of reason nor policy in all that the English Ministry do or say. They pretend that they do not wish for an armed truce, and they cry out against the bad effects of the Peace of Amiens. But to whom is an armed truce hurtful? to France.—To whom is it useful? to England.—To whom was the Peace of Amiens useful? to England.—To whom injurious? to France. There is no sensible man who will not acknowledge this. The expedition to St. Domingo was undertaken on the faith of the Treaty of Amiens—War took place, and the expedition failed, to the great injury of France. Marseilles, Bourdeaux, Nantes, Havre, St. Malo, and Dunkirk inundated the sea with their ships—they were, for the most part, taken by the English, and the loss of upwards of 100 millions of capital aimed the last blow at the merchants, almost exhausted by the events of the revolution. This assertion is so true, that Marseilles, Havre, Dunkirk, have but one cry, solid peace or energetic war—for the greatest misery that can happen to France is an armed truce. What then would be the result of a peace of two or three years, or what the English call an armed truce? It would be a peace without commerce, for what French capitalist would dare, on the faith of the present English Ministry, to trust a single ship to sea? It would be a peace without security; for the French army must then repass the Rhine—800,000 men now under arms, would be reduced to 300,000, for no state of peace could be more considerable, since it could only be provided for by the finances of the interior. And if the army being thus reduced, the nation having made no profit by commerce, England should attack again, and her attack be combined with the formation of a fifth coalition, what would be the situation of France? The few ships she would have at sea would be taken; the army must be formed in haste, and what is done upon the Continent would be called in question. It is true, therefore, that a short peace is advantageous to England, and might be destructive to France. But the perspicacity of the English Cabinet does not reach so far: and what all Europe enlightened sees, the fogs of the Thames prevent the English Cabinet from seeing.

On the statement in Mr. Canning's speech, that a Treaty in conjunction with Russia with the Porte, was far advanced at the period of the separation of Russia, it is said—

This is false, you were never for a moment likely to succeed. Mr. Canning, by the calumny, seems to wish to draw on France and Russia to seize on Constantinople; has Mr. Canning reflected upon his conduct in doing this ill office for the Porte; does he not know that Constantinople and Bagdad are the road to India; is he so ignorant as not to know that it is the interest of England that this partition should not take place? If he wishes to urge France to march her army in Dalmatia, in concert with the army in Moldavia, is there no factor of the India Company who will shew Mr. Canning a geographical chart? A detailed chart is not necessary, a simple map of the world, from the school of one of the lowest classes in the University of Oxford, will be sufficient. How much way would there be made, if 80,000 Russians and French were at Constantinople? In a few months they would be on the Euphrates. But what are these great results to Mr. Canning? If the clamour of the nation should drive him from his place, he will naturally return to his former nullity. We do not believe the assertion of Mr. Canning, we have proof that it is calumnious, and even if it were founded, a Ministry guilty of an indiscreet declaration would deserve to be rendered responsible for the consequences which might result from it As to any thing further, we leave this reasoning to the meditation of the India Company. How long has the English nation men who, not knowing how to speak without committing themselves, have not the wisdom to be silent.—Pitt, Fox, where are you?

On the intended subsidies to Sweden, mentioned in the same speech, it is said:—

The subsidies which you gave to Austria are in the Bank of Paris—these which you are to give to Sweden will find their way into the Bank of Petersburgh. One seems to be dreaming when reading of such ridiculous things. What, give your money to Sweden, that she may resist Russia, Denmark, and France!—Good, brave, and respectable Swedish nation, on what a precipice are you

placed? Why then, if you wish to defend Sweden, are not 80,000 English at Stockholm? Why, instead of sending your troops to Madeira, are they not encamped on the frontiers of Finland? You send to the King of Sweden 300,000l. sterling, and you think you have paid him for his services and his dangers. It is the Minister for Foreign Affairs who says this, in an assembly, formerly the most brilliant and illustrious in the world. How is it fallen!

On a part of the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, where it is observed, that the Danish ships might have been used by France to transport troops to Ireland or England, it is said:—

We do not know what this Chancellor of the Exchequer is—but he is neither a geographer, a sailor, nor a soldier; if he had the least notion of these three sciences, he would blush at such absurdities.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Thursday, a woman residing in Peascod-street, Windsor, delivered herself of a child; after which, she walked into Goswell's-fields, and threw it into a ditch. A prisoner in the jail, who saw from his window, which looks into those fields, a woman take something from under her cloak, and after unfolding several cloths, throw it into a ditch, gave information thereof, when a search was made, and the body of the child found. In consequence of the precise description he gave of her person, she was apprehended. A Coroner's Inquest was held, which brought in a verdict of Wilful Murder.

One of the hounds belonging to Mr. Kershaw, of Erskine, Lancashire, was lately bitten by a mad dog, which was not destroyed till it had communicated the infection to others of the pack, symptoms of which soon appearing, induced the proprietor to have them all killed. The dog which caused the destruction of the pack, bit a man also, who died in consequence.

On Tuesday last an elderly woman, many years servant to a widow lady at Brading, in the Isle of Wight, was burnt to death. She went to warm her mistress's bed, and it is supposed fell down in a fit, and the coals fell out of the warming-pan and set fire to her clothes; her mistress heard her cries, but being infirm could not get to her assistance before she was so shockingly burnt, as to cause her death the next morning.

A shocking accident occurred at Hull, on the morning of Friday week. Isabella Drew, a young woman of Union-street, Myton, standing near the chimney, with her back towards it making pastry, her gown caught fire, and her whole dress being entirely cotton, was almost instantly in flames. No person being present, save a little girl, who was not able to render any assistance, the unhappy sufferer ran into the street, whereby the flames were so much increased that the neighbours could not come near to render her any assistance, until one of them procured a bucket of water and threw it upon her. Medical advice was immediately obtained; but she was so shockingly burnt, that she died in about twelve hours. This unfortunate young woman was to have been married in a few days.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY, FEB. 22.

A Petition was presented from the Insolvent Debtors in the Gaol of Appleby, and ordered to lie on the table.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY, FEB. 23.

The American Intercourse Bill was read a second time.—Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24.

The American Intercourse Bill went through a Committee.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEB. 25.

THE BRAZILS.

Lord BATHURST rose to move the second reading of the Brazil Trade Bill. The only object of the measure was to make such an alteration in the general Navigation Laws as to admit the produce of the Brazils, when imported in Portuguese ships, on the same footing as if imported in British vessels; or, in other words, to place the Colony, under the present circumstances, in the same relation towards us as the Mother Country. It was unnecessary to go, at present, into any of the speculative views, whether favourable or otherwise, which had been entertained in regard to the commercial effects of the new situation in which the Brazils and this Country were now placed. He trusted that it would prove such as, instead of injuring our colonial interests, would materially benefit them; and at the same time furnish additional employment for our manufactories and shipping. To the Brazils we might resort for cotton for the home market; and lumber, rice, and provisions in general for the West India market.

Lord AUCKLAND did not mean to oppose the measure under the present circumstances, but the subject would require the most serious investigation whenever it came to be considered with a view to a permanent arrangement. The imports from the Brazils must enter most materially into competition with those from our own colonies. The Brazils furnished for exportation yearly about 73,000 hogsheads of sugar, and 24,000,000 lbs. of cotton. The produce of all our colonies was, of the former article, 280,000 hogsheads, of the latter 16,000,000 lbs. It, therefore, struck him as a policy extremely questionable to give facility and encouragement to the importation of foreign colonial produce to such an extent, at a period when we had a dead surplus of 80,000 hogsheads of sugar, and immense quantities of other commodities lying in the West India Dock warehouses. He did not think the evil would be removed by the permission to distil from sugar; for, if the distilleries were confined to that article alone, the demand would not exceed 12,000 hogsheads.

Lord GRENVILLE concurred in the remarks of his Noble Friend, as to the impolicy of permanently encouraging the cultivation of the Brazils in such a way as to affect the interests of the West India Planters; but more particularly applied himself to shew that the inevitable tendency of such a system would be, not only to frustrate the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, such as it was at the period of passing the Act, but to revive and extend it in a tenfold degree. He conceived that Parliament, and his Majesty's Ministers, were bound to interpose in the most prompt and efficacious manner to prevent this lamentable consequence of the emigration of the Portuguese Government. He thought the present period eminently favourable to a negociation with the Prince of the Brazils to put an end to that detested traffic.

Lord HAWKESBURY stated the purpose of the Bill to be no more than that of placing the colony, which had now become the seat of the Portuguese Government, in the same situation with the Mother Country; a change which he conceived to be strictly conformable to the spirit of the Navigation Act. What further arrangement should take place must depend on a deliberate view of all the circumstances arising out of the new relations of the two Governments. With regard to the Slave Trade, though he had differed with the majority of the Legisla-

ture on that point, he conceived it to be the duty of his Majesty's Government to make every exertion to give the completest effect to what had become the law of the land. The Bill was then read a second time.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26.

The Unclaimed Dividends Bill, and Bank Three Millions Loan Bill, were read a third time and passed.

AMERICA.

Lord BATHURST moved the third reading of the American Intercourse Bill.

Lord AUCKLAND repeated his observations upon the singularity of the course adopted by Ministers. He looked with the greatest apprehension to the irritation which the whole of these rash and ill-digested measures must produce in America.

Lord BATHURST vindicated the conduct pursued by Ministers relative to America, under circumstances which did not argue much moderation or forbearance on her side. The embargo being applicable to both the belligerents could not be justly complained of; but the Non-importation Act had something in it very near akin to hostility, when adopted in the course of a war between two states, one of whom was to be essentially injured, and the other proportionably benefited by it. Without departing from a line of moderation, he trusted his Majesty's Ministers would, at the same time, display a proper degree of firmness in asserting the rights and the honour of their country.

Lord GRENVILLE lamented the calamity, which from all that he saw done, and all that he had heard, was impending over his unfortunate country. Because there were some in America who might be desirous of precipitating the two countries into a state of war, did it follow that it was wise to take such a course as would inevitably gratify their wishes? He denied that the Non-importation Act could, by the law of nations, be regarded as a measure of hostility. Such a regulation had prevailed in this country for many centuries with regard to France and other nations, without constituting a ground of war.—The Bill was read a third time and passed.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, FEB. 22.

Mr. WHARTON brought up the Report of the Committee of Ways and Means, granting a duty on Salt exported to the Continent.

Mr. PERCEVAL stated, that he intended to relinquish that duty, so far as it regarded salt exported to America, and to any territory on the Continent which might be or might become in amity with his Majesty.

Mr. PONSONBY was happy to find the Right Hon. Gentleman receding step by step from his measures for carrying into effect the late Orders in Council, which were "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."—The resolutions were then agreed to; as were likewise resolutions prohibiting the exportation of cotton wool.

Colonel STANLEY presented a Petition from a number of inhabitants, Manufacturers of Great and Little Bolton, in Lancashire, praying the House to advise his Majesty to use every means and opportunity for restoring the blessings of Peace.

Mr. CANNING said, he had no objection to the Petition, and Ministers would certainly keep such applications in their eye. He had every feeling of commiseration for the privations under which the Petitioners laboured. Still he must contend, that those who were entrusted with the Executive Government, were invested with the responsibility of commencing a negociation or not, and it was a point of some consideration, whether or not if a negociation was to begin, it would terminate in a Treaty of Peace.—The Petition was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. PONSONBY wished to know from Ministers, as they had stated on the first day of the Session that it was likely a Subsidiary Treaty would soon be concluded between this Country and Sweden—he wished therefore to learn, whether there was any prospect of such a treaty, and whether any money had been advanced to that Monarch.

Mr. CANNING stated, that the only reason for the silence of Ministers on this subject, was the non-arrival of intelligence from the Continent. Within these few days Mails had arrived from Gottenburgh, and they announced that such a treaty had been signed between that Country and England; it was daily expected to arrive here, and he should then have the honour of submitting it to the House. A sum of money had been advanced to the King of Sweden in contemplation of that treaty.

In a Committee of Ways and Means a resolution was agreed to, prohibiting the exportation of cotton wool and Jesuit's bark. The report was received, and a Bill was ordered to be brought in accordingly.

THE OUDE PAPERS.

Lord FOLKESTONE moved the Order of the Day for the House taking into consideration the Oude Papers. On the question being put,

Mr. CREEVEY expressed a wish that the Noble Lord would consent to the postponement of the discussion on these papers, which involved matter of great and high importance. His reason for wishing this was, that this subject was connected not only with one transaction of Lord Wellesley, but that it embraced a period of 17 years, touching the conduct of Sir John Shore, the late Marquis Cornwallis, and Lord Wellesley. These questions, and the papers connected with them, occupied no less than 17 volumes of printed papers, and it was essential that Members should have time to deliberate upon their importance, and come fully prepared for their discussion. The House ought to have a fair chance of understanding these subjects, as they had originated in a former Parliament. The matter now brought forward by the Noble Lord concerned only the Treaty between Lord Wellesley and the Nabob of Oude, who had dethroned that Prince, surrounded him with troops, and taken from him a considerable portion of his territory, having instructed the Resident at Lucknow to do so, telling him to take for his model the Treaty of Tanjore, and other Treaties made with different Powers in India. These matters were so blended and amalgamated that they ought to undergo a distinct discussion, unconnected with the transactions relating to Oude. He protested against discussing a subject by itself, without embracing the whole conduct of the Noble Marquis at once. He then proceeded to read a pamphlet published under the sanction of the Court of Directors, animadverting on the conduct of Lord Wellesley. In that pamphlet the Directors discovered various deviations from their positive injunctions. He was therefore of opinion that a Committee ought to be appointed to examine the conduct of Lord Wellesley generally, and to report the same to the House.

Sir J. ANSTRUTHER complained of the delay which had already taken place, as highly injurious to the feelings of the Noble Marquis, and defended the policy of his Indian Government. He thought it desirable to have the question disposed of as soon as possible.

Mr. R. THORNTON never altered his opinion as to the conduct of the Marquis Wellesley. The Directors of the East India Company did not approve of his Indian policy, though they did not come forward as his accusers.

Mr. Hall, Mr. S. R. Lushington, Lord A. Hamilton, and Mr. Grant, spoke to the delay which had unavoidably arisen, and hoped that the question would be decided as speedily as possible.

Mr. WINDHAM said, it was impossible to decide the question that evening; it would be much better to appoint a Committee of Enquiry.

Mr. Bathurst, Sir T. Turton, and Sir S. Romilly, contended, that the House was not prepared to go into the great mass of evidence which the papers contained, and that it would be doing more justice to the party accused, to delay the business than to decide hastily.

Sir A. WELLESLEY thought the House ought to decide the question as soon as possible, and that too much delay had already taken place.

After a few words from Lord Folkstone and Mr. H. Smith, Sir F. Burdett suggested to his Noble Friend the propriety of withdrawing his notice, and to postpone the question till to-morrow se'nnight.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER wished to decide as to the mode fit for the House to adopt, and fix to-morrow for the further consideration of the papers.

The gallery was cleared during our absence. The House divided on the proposition of Mr. Creevy, which was carried, for it, 210—against it, 34. The further consideration therefore stand over till to-morrow se'nnight. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, FEB. 23.

Mr. WHITBREAD wished to learn when Ministers intended to bring in the Bill prohibiting the exportation of Peruvian Bark? He was not in the House when leave was given for its introduction, but on its being brought forward, he should certainly oppose it, as it carried with it a principle of the most detestable kind he had ever heard.—No answer was given.

Mr. FOSTER obtained leave to bring in a Bill for regulating the issue of small Notes, under the value of 20s. and for preventing the forgery of Bank Tokens, in Ireland.

The Petty Customs Offices Abolition Bill was read a third time and passed, when the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24.

General GASCOIGNE presented a Petition from the African Merchants of Liverpool, praying a loan of 18,000l.—Laid on the table.

LORD LAKE.

Lord CASTLEREAGH brought down a Message from his Majesty, stating, the Sovereign's having taken into his royal consideration the eminent services of the late Lord Lake in Europe and in India, being desirous of conferring upon the present Lord Lake, and his two immediate heirs male, a pension of 2000l. per annum, and requested the House to enable his Majesty to do the same in a way most fitting. Ordered to be taken into consideration on Friday next; when the Noble Lord gave notice, he should move an Address to his Majesty, for the erection of a monument, to perpetuate the memory and services of the late Lord Lake.

ROCHEFORD SQUADRON.

Mr. CALCRAFT wished to put a question to Ministers on a subject of much importance, which had excited many rumours, and much uneasiness and speculation in the public mind. He wished to know whether the squadron, under the command of Sir R. Strachan had been compelled to move from Basque Roads, on account of a scarcity of provisions, as by that gallant Admiral being obliged to relinquish that station, the Rochefort squadron had escaped to sea.

Mr. PERCEVAL replied, that Ministers had no such information, neither did they understand that there was any thing like a dearth of provisions on board the squadron of the gallant Admiral. The Hon. Gentleman, if he wished for information, ought to bring forward a specific motion.

Mr. CALCRAFT fixed Tuesday next for so doing.

WEST INDIES.

Mr. PERCEVAL then called the attention of the House, pursuant to a notice, to the embarrassed state of the West India Trade, and stated the imperious necessity that existed for that highly interesting subject being fully inquired into by a Committee, the report of which would, to a certainty, furnish the House with the best means of applying a remedy. One point struck him, for alleviating the present state of difficulty under which the West India Trade laboured, was the encouragement in home consumption of West India produce, by distillation from sugar and molasses. He concluded by moving for the appointment of a Committee to examine the state of the West India Trade. Ordered.

TRADE AND NAVIGATION.

Mr. TIERNEY rose to move that the House should resolve into a Committee on the Trade and Navigation Act, in order that a full opportunity might be afforded for the ample discussion of the merits of the late Orders in Council, which he contended had undergone no serious discussion whatever. An Hon. Gentleman (Mr. A. Baring), a practical British merchant, had, in a publication, which could not be too much perused by those interested in the welfare of the country, demonstrated that these Orders in Council were improper, in as much as they had been the result of the exercise of the prerogative, unsanctioned by the Legislature. There was not, he was well convinced, one out of ten Members of the House who understood the Orders in Council. He had no hesitation in admitting the King's Prerogative; but what he wanted to know was, what was likely to be the effect of these Orders in Council, and of the duties Ministers intended to impose on articles to be exported from the country. The Right Hon. Gentleman had said that these Orders in Council would compel France to make peace, and observe it. God grant it might be so; but he doubted it much. Since the Bill had been brought in, the Right Hon. Gentleman had found that the difficulties in a mercantile point of view, were great and insurmountable, and that they pressed very strongly upon him; and the Bill had been, in some respects, altered from the state in which it stood last Friday morning. It was with great sincerity of heart he stated these facts. He next adverted to the Petitions for Peace, which had told a plain tale of distress, in 30,000 manufacturers being through the Orders in Council thrown out of bread. Supposing that number to be daily augmented, what would the Right Hon. Gentleman say to that? The question was a very broad one. The mercantile interest had always displayed the utmost loyalty; they were willing to give the state a contribution from their profits; but this Order in Council Bill would take from them all they had gained, and was a great blow at the utter subversion of the commercial ascendancy of Great Britain. Mr. Tierney concluded by moving, that the House, on Thursday se'nnight, resolve itself into a Committee on the trade and navigation of the country.

Mr. PERCEVAL observed, that in pursuing the measure, he was acting in the conscientious discharge of his duty to the public. The Hon. Gentleman had asserted, that no time had been allowed for, or that any discussion had taken place on the Orders in Council. He must have forgotten that every thing involving the policy of the measure, its legality, and how it bore on the law of nations, had undergone investigation and debate. On the very first day that the Orders in Council had been taken into consideration, no material objection was taken to their discussion. With regard to the Petitions for Peace lately presented, Ministers exhibited no reluctance to their reception. The grievances of which these petitions complained, arose from the Orders in Council going in direct counteraction to the machinations and decrees of France, (*Hear! Hear! from the Ministerial Bench.*) The evils inflicted on this country by the attempts of the enemy to suppress our trade, had been as far as possible guarded against by Ministers. In the Committee on the Orders in Council Bill, all that was to be done was to leave out a clause discovered to be unconnected with the objects of that Bill.

Lord TEMPLE asked the opinion of the Speaker, whether, should the Orders in Council Bill pass, persons might petition against its enactments.

Mr. SPEAKER replied, certainly not in the present session.—The question was then called for, and the House divided. There appeared for Mr. Tierney's motion—Ayes 55—Noes 118.

The House then formed itself into a Committee to consider the Orders of Council Bill, when a desultory conversation took place respecting the inconsistencies between the present Bill and the American Intercourse Bill, which was now in its progress through the other House.

Mr. WHITBREAD entered his protest against the clauses which prevented the exportation of Peruvian Bark and Cotton Wool, and called the serious attention of the House to this part of the measure, which seemed calculated to provoke a war with America. He was certain, from the information he had received, that at this moment there was no less than two years consumption of bark and sugar in Paris; consequently, such a measure would not compel the enemy to make peace, according to the sanguine anticipation of our Ministers. But, instead of distressing the enemy by the privation of bark, it was making war with the poor, the destitute, and the helpless paupers in the hospitals in France; and such as every friend of humanity would consider as childish, cruel, and contemptible, and worthy only of the untutored and savage barbarian.—Will not France retaliate with double vengeance? But other substitutes for this medicine would be found to supersede the necessity of it. However, it was an execrable mode of warfare; and every British heart would revolt at the very idea of depriving the wretched of the only medicine, which, in certain cases, could afford them relief.—It might be remembered, that attempts were made in the early part of last war, to starve the French nation; but the idea originated in a distempered imagination, and certainly was as futile as the present measure. However, we ought at the same time to recollect the situation of this country with respect to the scarcity of corn about seven years ago—then we had the Baltic open to us—now the case was reversed, and we might be in the same situation again with the Baltic in the possession of the enemy; and would any man say he would not retaliate, agreeable to the present execrable example?

THE CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed, that this Bill did not prevent the exportation of Bark, but intended to lay a duty on it, and to enable his Majesty to allow its exportation, with a certain portion of the manufactures of this country, at the option of the enemy. He rather doubted the Hon. Gentleman's assertion respecting the quantity of bark on hand in France, or that he had any information on the subject. He positively denied the imputation of making war on the wretched. On the contrary, the Ruler of the Continent brought that, along with other miseries, upon his oppressed subjects; and with respect to the Baltic being shut against us, should we stand in need of any supply of corn, he had no fear but that the enemy would find it his interest to wink at the exportation whenever he had occasion for money.

Mr. S. LUSHINGTON held in his hand letters from Amsterdam, which conveyed the price of bark as low as 10s. 6d. per pound, dated only six weeks ago: this was a convincing proof that the article was not in such great demand as to compel the enemy to make peace for want of it.

Mr. HIBBERT condemned the measure, as disgusting to humanity, in depriving the unfortunate of medicine.

Mr. CANNING said, we ought not at this period to enter into a discussion on the propriety of the war: it unfortunately happened, in all cases of this nature, that the innocent suffered equally with the guilty. The present measure was absolutely necessary, for the sooner this privation was felt in France, the sooner, he was certain, the enemy would be brought to his senses.

Mr. WHITBREAD explained, and adverted to a shocking instance of the conduct of some of the British soldiers at Copenhagen.

Mr. WILBERFORCE censured the present mode of warfare, which involved the character of this country, as repugnant to the feelings of humanity.

General GASCOIGNE reprobated such an affectation of feeling.

Sir A. WELLESLEY said, that the orders of Lord Cathcart had been unfortunately such as did not authorise him to punish the soldiers alluded to.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, they had been guilty of rapes, robbery, and murder, and yet they had not been punished; on the contrary, though found guilty by a Court-martial, they had been released. He would therefore, on an early day, give notice of a motion to investigate this atrocity.

The House then divided on the first question for omitting the words "Jesuit's Bark," Ayes 76, Noes 167; majority in favour of Ministers 91. On the second question, for omitting the words "Cotton Wool," it was negatived by a majority of 87.

After some further proceeding, the Chairman reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again this day.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEB. 25.

Mr. MELLISH presented a Petition from Mr. Dodd, Engineer, praying for leave to bring in a Bill for constructing a Bridge across the Thames, from Vauxhall to Millbank.—Referred to a Committee.

DENMARK, SWEDEN, &c.

Mr. SHERIDAN then rose to bring forward his promised motion, respecting Stockholm and Copenhagen. He observed, that his Right Hon. Friend, Mr. Canning, in proportion as he saw that side of the House anxious for information, was eager to suppress it, and obstinately to refuse it; more than that, there was a new practice amongst Ministers—they must have previous information of the intention of any Hon. Gentleman to bring forward a question. It was a fact, rather singular, that the House had not been pledged, in any way, to an approval of the expedition to Copenhagen; the Ministers very dexterously shifted off censure, and discussed the general question. They urged, in their defence, State Necessity, but that case was not made out. It had been said by his Right Hon. Friend (Mr. Canning) that information given to Parliament, in the existing circumstances of Europe, was pregnant with danger, as the communication of intelligence would, in all probability, involve in ruin the persons from whom such information had been obtained; but was that the fact?—Was it dangerous in a free constitution, such as that of Britain, to withhold information, the very essence of that Constitution under which we lived? In a despotic Government, where all information was deposited in one individual, as in France, it could not be obtained. In this country, however, every man could learn, by the proceedings of the House, the amount of our naval and military establishments, and no harm had ever resulted from such publicity. Were this publicity not maintained, no Government could keep up its correspondence with foreign states; and if a war broke out, Ministers were bound in duty to render notorious to all mankind the grounds and causes of such a war; and for this very purpose ought all Governments to keep a correct and detailed account of their conduct to be promulgated to the world as occasion might require, as they ought always to look forward to a day of reckoning and account. Mr. Sheridan then animadverted on the conduct of Mr. Canning, in resisting all information, and blamed him for reading Lord Howick's dispatch to Mr. Garlike, in a mutilated disjointed stile.—He had a high regard for that Right Hon. Gentleman's public character, but he had no right to assume from Lord Howick's dispatch that the Danes were hostile to this country, and attached secretly to France. He would not charge him with doing so designedly, but imagined he must

have taken the hint from some Under Secretary, who, in ransacking old dispatches, might have found something which he might work up into an hostility by Denmark against England. The story about scuttling the ships had been circulated in the ordinary channels of information, and though it had been explicitly contradicted by Lord Cathcart, who had borne testimony to the honourable behaviour and good faith of the Danes, yet it had never been formally contradicted. But if this was only a shade different from what had been done in the case of the extracts, there was nothing that might not be defended on the same principle. If Ministers thought proper to make out a case against any country, they had only to have recourse to this ingenious sort of picking. The Right Hon. Gentleman had a model of this kind of ingenuity in Swift's "Tale of a Tub," where three brothers endeavoured to find the words "shoulder-knots" in their father's will, and gave a complete specimen of this system of pickings and patches. They first attempted to find the shoulder-knots, *totidem verbis*—but this being found impracticable, the eldest, who was afterwards distinguished by the appellation of Lord Peter, suggested the expedient of looking for it, *totidem syllabis*. This too was found impossible, as they could not make out the first syllable. They then tried to make out their point, *totidem literis*, but as bad luck would have it, they could not find out the letter *K*. What was to be done in this case? Brother Peter got rid of the difficulty by giving it as his opinion, that the word "Knot" ought to be spelt without a *K*; the other brothers agreed with him, and thus they made out their authority for wearing shoulder knots. [*A laugh.*] So an acute Secretary might make out a charge against any country. The Right Hon. Gentleman might perhaps have read or heard of an ingenious essay, in favour of atheism, taken out of the Epistles of St. Paul—[*a laugh.*] This was another instance of the system of picking scraps from different parts of the same composition. There was also a most indecent and abominable poem, written by Ausonius, which could not be quoted in the House, which scarcely even could be named with propriety, all taken from the chaste muse of Virgil. Perhaps his Right Hon. Friend had read it—[*a laugh*]—*monstrum horrendum ingens!* but though he believed his Right Hon. Friend must have read it, yet he was sure he would not attempt a translation for the use of the country Gentlemen—[*a loud laugh*]—otherwise he might be as severely rebuked by his friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as he had been by the Noble and Learned Lord in the other House, and besides have a lecture from the Society for the Suppression of Vice, with leave to think himself lucky if he escaped a prosecution—[*A laugh*] It was reported that Ministers were preparing to send a fleet to the Baltic, and he hoped that they would do so, not for the purpose either of taking Holstein from the French, or Zealand from the Danes, or of making good their promise to the King of Sweden by taking Norway, but he hoped with the intention of securing the Swedish fleet! The King of Sweden must be the most unreasonable man in the world, if he hesitated to deliver it into our hands as a deposit! and it certainly was an object of sufficient importance to engage the attention of Ministers. It was well known that Sweden was in possession of the best flotilla in the world, and did it fall into the power of our enemy, it was much more likely to be converted into an instrument of effecting an invasion of this country than the Danish navy. But reverting to a general view of the question, he put it to the House, whether it would sanction the new system of withholding all information relative to the measures of Ministers. If it did, it would be better to decide at once, that the interference of that House was at all times an impediment to the operations of Government; that Parliament was a nuisance in difficult times; that it would be better for the King to prorogue it during pleasure, raise money as he pleases, and make war or peace when, how, or on what terms, he may think proper. He implored Ministers, however, to give up the detestable system upon which they had lately been endeavouring to act, namely, that of fighting Bonaparte with his own weapons. They would do much better to continue to fight with those weapons which the nation was better accustomed to handle. Let them oppose lenity and moderation to his cruelty and oppression; let them oppose good faith to his treachery and duplicity; to his violence and despotism, let them oppose the mildness of the British Constitution; and, above all, to his mystery, let them oppose publicity. He concluded with moving—"That there be laid before the House, as far as the same can be done without detriment to the public service, Copies or Extracts of the Correspondence which passed after the Capitulation of Copenhagen between his Majesty's Ministers and the Court of Stockholm, relative to the retaining possession of the Island of Zealand by a Swedish army, or in concert with his Majesty's forces; also for Copies or Extracts of the Correspondence which passed between his Majesty's Ministers and the Danish *Charge d'Affaires*, or his Secretary, resident at the Court of London, from the date of the Capitulation of Copenhagen to their departure."

Mr. Secretary CANNING, after complimenting Mr. Sheridan on the humour he had displayed on serious points, and the gravity he had shown on points comparatively trifling, proceeded to state his objections to the motions of his Right Hon. Friend. Mr. Sheridan had asserted, that there could be no objection on the part of Ministers to accede to his request, as the public interest would sustain no injury by any disclosure that could be made. He, however, thought differently, as Sweden was now at war with Russia. Would it, therefore, be proper, or could his Right Hon. Friend wish Ministers to divulge the confidential intercourse that had taken place between Sweden and Great Britain of late? State that information to the House, the consequence would be, it gets into the world, and of course reaches the enemy in a few days, who, doubtless, would avail himself of every possible means and opportunity of annihilating the magnanimous Monarch of Sweden. With respect to his other motion, there was no necessity for complying with it, as the proposal of giving Norway to Sweden had never been attempted to be carried into effect. After enlarging on these points, Mr. Canning terminated by opposing the motion.

Mr. WINDHAM contended, that their production could not be of any injury to the public service, being at war with Denmark; neither could their publicity be of the least injury to the interest of that country.

Mr. G. PONSONBY insisted on the propriety of producing these papers, in order to do away the odium thrown on the character of the British nation, by the conduct of Ministers, with respect to Denmark. The charge now against them was their wish to violate the terms of the capitulation, by negociating with the King of Sweden to occupy the Island of Zealand, in conjunction with a portion of British troops, and therefore he hoped they would produce the papers sought for to vindicate the country from so foul a stigma.

Mr. Secretary CANNING observed, that when the *Moniteur* thought proper to bring false charges against the Government, they were not bound to reply, by producing papers to disclose the secrets of it.

Mr. SHERIDAN was not by any means astonished at the silence observed on the other side of the House; it originated in prudence, as they could not deny the facts which had been alledged against them.

After Mr. Secretary CANNING had explained, the Gallery was cleared, when the House divided—For the motion, 85—against it, 184—majority, 99.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26.

Mr. MELLISH presented a Petition from the Master

Bakers of London, complaining of certain violations of the Act for setting the Assize of Bread.—Laid on the table.

Sir F. BURDETT presented a Petition from the Journeymen Bakers in the City of London, and within twelve miles round the same, complaining of their being obliged to work on Sundays, which prevents their attending on divine service on that day, contrary to the Act. The Petition stated, that that Statute imposed a penalty of 10s. on every master baker who suffered puddings, pies, or tarts, to be baked in his oven on that day. That the master bakers had wholly disregarded that Act, on account of the lowness of the penalty. The Petition prayed relief, and was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. DAVENPORT presented a Petition signed by 2000 manufacturers and labourers of Stockport, in Cheshire, entreating the House to advise his Majesty to avail himself of all opportunities for concluding a Peace.—Laid on the table.

Mr. HUSKISSON brought up a Bill, prohibiting the exportation of Jesuit's Bark.

Mr. W. SMITH observed, that there was something very strange in a division that had taken place the other night, as two Gentlemen only seemed to think that cotton wool and Jesuit's bark were not one and the same thing. The minority against the one was 78, and against the other 76.

Mr. PERCEVAL replied, that it was absurd for Gentlemen to argue against the Bill on principles of humanity. The retention of cotton wool at home would be severely felt, as that article, were it allowed to be exported, would set all the foreign manufactories to work.

Mr. VANSITTART stated the comsumption of bark in Great Britain was 60 tons a-year, and in Ireland it amounted to 10, An immense quantity had been imported during the time the Plata was in our possession, and more had been exported from this country in that time than was sufficient for the French army, so that in that respect there was no necessity for the restriction.

Sir W. ELFORD said, an Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Whitbread) had the other night declared, that if he had the command of an army, and the forces of the enemy should labour under a fever, he would readily supply them with bark. This he thought was as absurd as if he would furnish them with arms and gunpowder.

Mr. SHERIDAN said, that the idea of his Hon. Friend was not quite so absurd as the Hon. Baronet imagined. The pilchard and herring fisheries on the coast of Holland were never molested in time of war, as these fish were esteemed in that country a medicine. It would appear from their reluctance to part with bark, that Ministers themselves were affected with a *Typhus fever. (A laugh.)*—The House then divided, when the question was carried by a majority of 34; the Ayes being 74, and the Noes 40.

On our re-admission, we found Mr. Secretary CANNING moving an Address to his Majesty, for Copies or Extracts of any Dispatches received by Ministers from the British Envoy at Copenhagen, in Dec. 1806, relative to any actual invasion or menace for occupying a part of the Danish territory by France. The Right Hon. Secretary stated, that he was induced to move for these papers, in order to vindicate himself from the charge of having given a garbled account of Lord Howick's Dispatch to Mr. Garlicke, and of that Gentleman's answer. He concluded by moving accordingly.

Mr. POSSONBY observed, that the papers proposed to be produced, evidently shewed that Mr. Canning did wilfully misrepresent Lord Howick's dispatch, and that he now wished to vindicate his own character. He paid every respect to these commendable feelings, but he had a higher respect for the feelings of the public, and insisted that all the other papers ought to be produced, indicative as it was said of Denmark's hostile disposition towards Great Britain.

Mr. TIERNEY was remarking on the abject state to which the House was reduced through the ascendant influence of the Right Hon. Secretary, when he was called to order, he having alluded to his Majesty as being disgraced by that means. Some conversation ensued of a desultory nature, when—

Mr. SHERIDAN supported the motion, and moved an amendment, calling for all information received last year by Ministers respecting Copenhagen, and the equipment of the Danish fleet for the purposes of France.

Mr. CANNING dissented to the amendment; and after a few words from Mr. W. DUNDAS, the Gallery was ordered to be cleared, when two divisions took place:—For the amendment 40—against it 110—majority 70. And on the original motion—ayes 140—noes 9—majority 131.

On our return, we found the House in a Committee, considering of the Army Estimates, and the SECRETARY at WAR stating, that the Cavalry remained on the same establishment as last year. The Infantry were 147,000 men, which increased the last year's numbers by 12,812. In the Waggon Train there was a considerable reduction; but the Militia, notwithstanding the volunteering into the Line, had reached its usual establishment; and as for the Volunteer Corps, they were nearly on the same footing. The Right Honourable Secretary therefore proposed, that 14,752,000l. should be granted to his Majesty for the military service of the current year, making an increase of 592,000l. on that of last year; that increase, he said, was entirely owing to the number of Officers appointed, and to the number of men volunteered from the Militia.

Mr. WINDHAM condemned the mode of recruiting from the Militia, and said, that men could not be had to make up deficiencies, as 60l. was the current payment of a substitute; consequently, a grievous burthen, not only on individuals, but on parishes. He defended with peculiar animation the Limited Service Bill, which held out incitements to individuals to enlist, instead of that which insured slavery for life.

Lord CASTLEREAGH presumed, that the Volunteering system was the most convenient, and less oppressive than any other, and found more productive, as 37,000 men had been already added to our regular establishment, and 4000 more would be produced before the 1st of May. Hence it would be found that 60,000 men had been recruited since the Hon. Gentleman had left his office.

On the question for granting 2,980,000l. for the service of the Ordnance, a long discussion ensued. It was agreed to, and several Resolutions, of minor import, were put and carried.—The Report on Monday.

Lord CASTLEREAGH deferred till Monday his motion for granting a pension to the family of the late Lord Lake.

Adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

J. W. H. Mason, Heartley-place, Kent-road, paperhanger, to surrender March 1, 12, April 5, at ten. Attorney, Mr. Rippon, Grange-road.

J. Webb, Manchester, calico-manufacturer, March 14, 15, April 5, at two, at the Bridgewater Arms Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Morgan, Manchester.

E. Grey, Monk-Wearmouth, coalfitter, March 9, 10, April 5, at eleven, at the Ridge Inn, Bishop-Wearmouth. Attorney, Mr. Davidson, Bishop-Wearmouth.

R. Humphreys, Stamford, Lincolnshire, linen-draper, March 9, 10, April 5, at eleven, at the Crown Inn, Stamford. Attorney, Mr. Thompson, Stamford.

J. Randall, Leeds, grocer, March 3, 4, April 5, at eleven, at the Three Legs Inn, Leeds. Attorney, Mr. Lee, Leeds.

J. Moon, Manchester, and W. Maymon, Haslingden, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturers, Feb. 29, March 7, April 5, at three, at the Bridgewater Arms Inn, Manchester. Attornies, Messrs. Duckworth and Co. Manchester.

R. Hutchinson, Manchester, joiner, Feb. 29, March 7, April 5, at four, at the Bridgewater Arms, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Morgan, Manchester.

J. Graham, Chorley, and J. Harrison, Prescot, Lancashire, liquor-merchants, March 7, 8, April 5, at eleven, at the Bull Inn, Preston. Attorney, Mr. Startisant, Preston.

DIVIDENDS.

March 15. R. Whalley, Cullum-street, brandy-merchant, —March 22. J. Richardson, Somerset-street, Goodman's-fields, mathematical instrument-maker.—March 22. J. Bell and R. Atkinson, Bow-lane, warehousemen. March 29. R. Corney, New Gravel-lane, slopseller.

CERTIFICATES—March 15.

D. Furguson, Greenock, ship-owner.—G. Allen, Fenchurch-street, upholsterer.—R. Chamberlain, Wisbech, grocer.—Thomas Clifford, Birmingham, mealman.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

At the Court at the Queen's Palace, the 24th of February, 1808, present the King's most Excellent Majesty in Council. His Majesty, in Council, was this day pleased to appoint—

Robert Barnford, of Upton, Esq. to be Sheriff of the county of Chester, in the room of Charles Trelawney Brereton, of Shotwick-park, Esq.

Marmaduke Middleton Middleton, of Leam, Esq. to be Sheriff of the county of Derby.

William Cary, of Cannock, Esq. to be Sheriff of the county of Stafford.

John Fullarton, of Barton on the Heath, Esq. to be Sheriff of the county of Warwick.

John Nathaniel Miers, of Cadoxtone Juxta Neath, Esq. to be Sheriff of the county of Glamorgan, in the room of the Hon. William Booth Grey, of Duffrin.

Rees Williams, of Gwainclawth, Esq. to be Sheriff of the county of Brecon.

John Jones, of Penrhose Brodwen, Esq. to be Sheriff of the county of Anglesey, in the room of Edward Jones, of Cromleck, Esq.

BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

T. Lee, Holborn, glover, to April 23, at ten, at Guildhall.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

W. Mordue, South-place, Kennington, ship-owner.

BANKRUPTS.

Jas. Robinson, Liverpool, silversmith, to surrender April 4, 5, 9, at twelve, at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool. Attorney, Mr. Phillips, Liverpool.

John Heppell, Monkweremouth, Durham, sailmaker, March 21, 22, April 9, at eleven, at the Bridge Inn, Bishop-Wearmouth. Attorney, Mr. Thompson, Bishop-Wearmouth.

John Pilling, jun. Manchester, ale-housekeeper, March 11, 12, April 9, at four, at the Palace Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Fearnhead, Manchester.

George Warren Burgess, Jos. Thos. Lockyer and Rowland Gill, Bristol, linen-drapers, March 21, 22, April 9, at eleven, at the Bush Tavern, Bristol. Attorney, Mr. Stephens, Bristol.

Solomon Lyon, Ormond-house, Academy, Chelsea, dealer, March 5, at eleven, 12, April 9, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Benton, Union-street, Southwark.

William Penny Fox, Back-lane, Deptford, victualler, March 5, 12, April 9, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Henson, Dorset-street, Salisbury-square.

Joseph Piper and Knowles Winder, Richmond, Surrey, grocers, March 5, at eleven, 12, April 9, at ten, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Senior, Richmond.

William Holdsworth, Addingham, Yorkshire, flax-spinner, March 4, 5, April 9, at eleven, at the George Inn, Kingston-upon-Hull. Attorney, Mr. Jackson, Hull.

John Cocks Bower, Ledbury, Herefordshire, milliner, March 4, at six, 5, April 9, at ten, at the Plume of Feathers Inn, Ledbury, Herefordshire. Attornies, Messrs. Lay and Neale, Upson-upon-Severn, Worcestershire.

John Hartley, Kendal, Westmorland, shoe-maker, March 9, at five, 10, April 9, at eleven, at the White Hart Inn, Kendal, Westmorland. Attornies, Messrs. Wilson and Sons, Kendal.

John Haydon, Mitcham, butcher, March 1, 12, April 9, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Smith and Trower, Barbers'-hall, Monkwell-street.

Robert Paine, Raine, Essex, shopkeeper, March 1, 15, April 9, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Fillingham, Union-street, Whitechapel.

William Ford, Pickett-street, Temple-bar, auctioneer, March 2, at ten, 5, April 9, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hughes, Bear-yard, Lincoln's-inn-field.

Abraham Jones, Bath-square, Portsea, Hants, slopseller, March 1, 12, April 9, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Isaacs, Mitre-court, Aldgate, London.

John Miles, Bermondsey-street, Southwark, corn-dealer, March 5, 12, April 9, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Newcombe, Vine-street, Piccadilly.

John Elfams, Manchester, bricklayer, March 11, 14, April 9, at twelve, at the Bridgewater Arms Inn, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Morgan, Manchester.

DIVIDENDS.

May 3. J. Phillips, Bicester, Oxfordshire, linen-draper. —March 26. T. Eyles, Elstow, Bedfordshire, butcher. —March 26. J. Elkan Daniels, Coleman-street, London, merchant.—March 19. B. Biggs, Charterhouse, Hinton, Somersetshire, shopkeeper.—May 3. Hay Smith, Albemarle-street, wine-merchant.—March 23. C. and N. Husey, Newgate-street, linen-drapers.—April 11. W. Riggs, Old Bailey, London, glove-merchant.—April 11. J. Gray, East Smithfield, baker.—March 29. W. Watts, Castle-lane, Borough, leather-dresser.—March 21. A. Horsfall, and J. Robinson, jun. Bradford, Yorkshire, wool-staplers.—March 24. J. Brown, Wintringham, Lincolnhire, baker.—March 19. A. Vodel, Paul's Chain, City of London, furrier.—May 3. H. G. Bonnin, New Bond-street, furniture-printer.—March 26. E. Lowcock, Skipton, York, innkeeper.—March 24. T. Delap, Barton-upon-Humber, shopkeeper.—March 21. A. Bellringer, Bodmin, Cornwall, linen-draper.

CERTIFICATES—March 19.

R. Partridge, Clement's Inn, Middlesex, merchant.—C. B. Von Essen, Gray's Inn Coffee-house, Holborn, merchant.—J. Paton, Bow Church-yard, London, warehouseman.—S. L. Payne, Change-alley, London, hatter.—P. Baxter, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, mariner.—J. Potter and W. Monkman, Silver-street, London, warehousemen.—S. Hooton and S. Rich, Woodstock-street, Bond-street, Middlesex, taylors.—J. Hopkinson, I. Bower, W. Vickers, J. Richardson, J. Birley, and A. C. Harker, Sheffield, edge-tool-manufacturers.—B. Hunt, Brighthelmstone, cabinet-maker.

The expedition under the command of General Spencer, which has been so long detained at Falmouth, sailed from thence on Sunday. It consisted of about sixty transports, under convoy of the Antelope, of 50 guns, and Primrose and Millbrook schooners.

Of the importance of the trade between Great Britain and the United States of America, some judgment may be formed from the fact, that the annual export of British manufactures to those States exceeds 10,000,000*l.* sterling, and that the demand has been constantly and rapidly increasing.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.
Consols - - - 63 7/8 | Red. Ann. - - 64 3/8

TO CORRESPONDENTS.
THESPIS in the next Paper.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

THE *second* squadron, which was supposed to have escaped from a French port, is believed to be no other than Admiral DUCKWORTH's, which is still in eager pursuit of the enemy. The Brest and Ferrol squadrons were both in port a few days ago.

It has been reported that the French compelled the Russian Officers at Lisbon to deliver up the command of their ships, together with several British subjects who had sought refuge on board. The Ministerial Papers state however that Government has received no account whatever of the transaction.

Various dispatches to and from the English Minister at Russia were laid before Parliament on Friday. Some of them related to a loan of six millions, which the Russian Government was desirous of raising in this country at five per cent. interest. It was to be liquidated by a sinking fund, and the Russian Custom-house duties were offered as security for the interest. This loan our Government very properly refused. But it does not appear that they were equally justified in refusing, or in other words in delaying that armed assistance, which Russia seems to have urged with so much eagerness. One cannot help thinking that the late Ministry wished to put an end to those continental alliances into which their predecessors had so unwisely entered. If they did not, it is difficult to conceive why they made such frivolous excuses about the weather, and such a perpetual shew of doing something for the Continent while they really did nothing. I am not inclined to disapprove their neglect of the Continent, had they openly declared the uselessness of interfering with continental affairs: but they certainly wanted either candour to the Continent, or candour to their own country.

The comments of the *Moniteur* on the King's Speech exhibit the usual mixture of good reasoning and wilful perversion. They ridicule us with much propriety on our petty eagerness to secure the Portuguese fleet, on our useless subsidies to Sweden, on our inconsistent behaviour to Turkey, and on our unhappy neglect of three millions of Roman Catholics our fellow subjects, while we are assisting a weak and treacherous Roman Catholic Prince. But in the mean time the Editor of the *Moniteur*, whether he be M. HAUTERIVE, or his master NAPOLEON, forgets the very same inconsistent behaviour of France to Turkey, a nation which the French Emperor is evidently betraying into it's ruin by his *friendship*, and which he despotically rules by his Ambassador. The Editor's reproaches on our seizure of Madeira are truly contemptible. We pretend, says he, to protect the Portuguese Prince, and then not only take his islands but expose his weakness to all the world. A mighty secret no doubt! And what could the Prince of the Brazils do with his European island when he was driven into another region of the world and bereft of all his strength? No, no: if the island of Madeira is of any effect to England, it is only to charge her with new expenses for new official nothings. So far M. Editor might have laughed at us, but with respect to the Prince the capture was a generous proceeding, since it relieved him of the mortification of seeing all his possessions in French hands. There are one or two sentences in the *Moniteur's* observations which refer every thing to that peculiar providence, which has been the prevailing opinion, and perhaps the only religious faith of many a conqueror before NAPOLEON. "The order of Providence," it says, "meant to produce changes in this hemisphere—the event is irrevocably fixed by the decrees of Providence, &c. &c. and therefore England did not make peace." This looks like the pen of the EMPEROR. If it is not his real opinion, it is a very frequent and a very good artifice to carry about him the decrees of Heaven for every thing he does. I know not whether our newspaper writers ought to feel elevated or humbled when they see a powerful Monarch scribbling in a Journal: but the middling men of posterity will have a high idea of the times in which editorship was a royal occupation. It was never so before but once. CÆSAR himself, who was as excellent a writer as a soldier, and who wrote a great deal about his enemies, never scribbled against them, for he had none who could fight him that way. CHARLEMAGNE, the prototype of NAPOLEON, never wrote either about or against his enemies, but he had a very good reason for it, and that was, that he could not write at all. MOHAMMED is the only conqueror who thus employed himself, and really there is a great similitude between the periodical publications of NAPOLEON, and the bitter invectives of the Koran, which the Prophet produced by chapters at different periods. They both affect to be hand and glove with Providence, and if the Arabian robber appointed the angel Gabriel his nominal editor, the European plunderer nominates that angelic reasoner M. HAUTERIVE for his. At any rate, the titles of the Emperor ought certainly to run thus—Napoleon, Emperor of the French, King of Italy, Protector of the Rhenish Confederation, and *Principal Editor of the Moniteur!* This would be in the true style of French official climax.

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Both Houses met yesterday for the dispatch of business. In the Lords the Royal assent was given to six bills, and two private acts. In the Commons, the Deputy Clerk of the Crown amended the return for Horsham, by erasing the names of Sir S. Romilly and Parry Jones Parry, Esq. and inserting those of Jos. Marriot and Henry Gouldburne, Esqrs. For Saltash, the Members returned were Matthew Russell and James Pedley, Esqrs.

The schooner Sea Lark, Lieut. Banks, which was sent by Vice-Admiral Russel as a flag of truce to the Texel, to inquire into the particulars of the loss of his Majesty's ship Flora, arrived on Monday at Yarmouth. Lieut. Banks was the bearer of a private letter from Capt. Paget, of the Goliath, commanding the blockade of the Texel, to Capt. Bland, of the Flora, but the Dutch officer who came out to meet the schooner, would not allow her to proceed, and also refused to receive the letter, which was open, and contained only intelligence relative to Captain Bland's family. He said, his orders were to permit no sort of communication, whether public or private, with any vessel coming from England. Lieut. Banks was therefore under the necessity of returning with only this information—"that the Flora had been wrecked on the coast of Holland, and that every person on board had been saved."

A Treaty of Offensive and Defensive Alliance has been concluded with Sweden, by which the Island of Martraud, near Gottenburgh, is surrendered to the English, as a depot for the naval and military force to be employed in the Baltic; it possesses an excellent harbour, and from its strength, is termed the Gibraltar of Sweden. It commands the entrance of the Cattegat. The assistance which his Swedish Majesty has stated to be necessary to enable him to contend with the powerful combination which has been formed against him, consists—1st, Of 16 sail of the line. 2d, Twenty thousand British troops, with which a corps of 15,000 select Swedish troops are to act. 3d, A subsidy of 100,000l. per month during the continuance of the war.

Advices were received on Friday from Buenos Ayres, dated a month subsequent to the evacuation of that colony by the British forces. Letters of the most respectable authority state, that General Liniers had been put under an arrest, but the cause is not assigned. It has been long known that a large party in that country were averse to many of the measures adopted by the General, and that they viewed even his successes with jealousy. An anecdote is related, of Liniers having seduced the wife of a British Officer, whom he attempted to introduce into the first circles. This was resented by the Spaniards as an insult. Altercations arose, and the issue has been the arrest of the General. His papers were seized, and an interesting correspondence was discovered. It was suspected by some of the Spaniards that it was the object of Liniers to put his countrymen in possession of Buenos Ayres.

A Morning Paper states, that the Prince of Wales was so much affected at seeing Lord Lake on his death-bed, that the sight quite overpowered him; he fainted away, and was not recovered till a quantity of cold water was sprinkled over his face.

There is unfortunately no truth in the report of the capture of four sail of the Rochfort squadron by Admiral Duckworth.

Letters from Paris, of the 11th instant, state that every article of colonial produce is extremely scarce. The prices are of course exceedingly high. Coffee, which lately sold for 30 sous a pound, is now raised to 90; and cotton from 50 to 90. The enhancement of sugar is not quite so considerable. Peruvian bark, which may be called an article of the first necessity, is also very scarce.

It is rumoured that Bonaparte has left Paris upon a journey to Bourdeaux, from whence he was expected to proceed to the frontiers of Spain.

A general review, by the Commander in Chief, of all the Volunteer Corps, Cavalry, and Infantry, belonging to London and Westminster, and ten miles round, will take place in Hyde Park about the middle of next month.

Intelligence has been received of great exertions making at Antwerp to fit out a powerful armament, intended to operate in favour of Russia and Denmark against Sweden, in the Baltic; and it is said to be in such forwardness as to have excited some anxiety lest it should be ready before our expedition which is preparing for the same scene of action.

The Earldom of Crauford and Lindsay, with a rental of 42,000l. per annum, is said to have devolved on Sergeant Lindsay, of the Perthshire Militia.

Mr. Sheridan has again received from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales the place of Receiver of the Duchy of Cornwall.

The Trial of General Whitelocke is still likely to last some time. The evidence against him has not yet been got through, and his defence will take up several days.

The wars which England has been engaged in during the present reign, has raised the national debt from 146,500,000l. to 600,000,000l. notwithstanding the late practice of raising the supplies within the year.

By the ancient laws of Hungary, a man convicted of Bigamy was *condemned* to live with *both wives*.

Attempt at suicide.—A young gentleman in the army, and the son of an officer of rank, made an attempt to put a period to his existence yesterday morning at his apartments in Mortimer-street. The people of the house were alarmed, at an early hour, by the report of a pistol; and, on a young man who slept in the house, of the name of Irvin, going into the bedroom of the officer, he found him loading the pistol a second time, with his hand bleeding copiously. He had, it appeared, fastened the pistol to the sacking at the foot of the bed, and a string which was tied to the trigger was brought round the bedpost, which was pulled, whilst the afflicted person stood before the muzzle. A ball had passed through the mantle-shelf, in a direction parallel with the foot of the bedstead, the pistol having been removed by the pulling of the trigger. The young man, it appeared, had returned to his apartments, at five o'clock in the morning, from a gaming-house in St. Ann's parish.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 9.

MR. ALLINGHAM'S NEW FARCE CALLED THE WIDOW'S CHOICE. ITS PLOT AND PLEASANT EASE. MR. LISTON, MR. FAWCETT, AND MRS. C. KEMBLE.

COVENT-GARDEN.

A very amusing farce called the *Widow's Choice* was produced on Thursday, from the pen of MR. ALLINGHAM, a gentleman who writes very bad comedies. I hope he will continue to write excellent farces and nothing else. He will excel half the modern writers by this little self-knowledge. The story arises out of a whimsical will, which bequeaths a fortune to a young widow, on condition that she marries one of her two cousins, who are to decide their claim to the lady by the chance of a dice-box. The three cousins are related by different mothers, and they present a very pleasing difference of character. *Caper* (Mr. LISTON) is a rich merchant, vain of his person, and fond of dancing. *Extempore* (MR. FAWCETT), is a poet, who talks in blank verse, and has as great a contempt of money as he has an earnest desire to get it; and lastly, the fair prize is a fine spirited widow, who at first does not wish to marry either the merchant or his cousin, but is at length subdued by the careless generosity of the bard. Our heroine, in order to look about her at her ease, comes to the awful ceremony of perusing the will, in the disguise of her maid-servant; the merry bequest is read, the dice produced, and the great game commences. The ardour of poetry induces the bard to venture first. He rattles the box to those accompanying touches of the fiddle, which, by their quick agitation, announce some important event: the box is turned down, every body approaches the table with tip-toed breathlessness, the poet trembles, the box is turned up—no—yes—alas, *it is deuce ace.*—The poet sinks into a chair. Now for the triumph of the capering merchant, who can scarcely refrain from giving a loose to all the jigs in his legs. He seizes the box with the air of a conqueror, rattles it with a gay indifference, turns it down with an easy assurance: every body approaches the table, but not on tip-toes; they seem coming to congratulate him: he turns it up with a contemptuous gravity,—hey—ah—what!—he changes countenance—every body starts back—the poet jumps up—the widow claps her hands—*it is two aces.*

I have detailed this part of the plot, because it highly pleased me. I will not diminish the remaining interest of the story by relating changes produced by the change of a picture over the chimney-piece, the poet's apparent reverse of fortune, and his final decided happiness. The piece well deserves the visit of my readers, whom it will remind of the easy trifles of GARRICK rather than of the punning buffooneries of the modern farce-writers. The humour is not so broad as is usually the case with Mr. ALLINGHAM's farces. You are pleased with the attempts at originality of character, with the flowery blank verse in which the poet always speaks, and with the sprightly ease of the rest of the dialogue, which awakens a pleasure more allied to the complacent effect of wit than to the convulsions into which you are thrown by such a piece as the *Wags of Windsor*. The music is by CONDELL, and, with the exception of the overture, which had all the trick and merry cant of REEVE, was very elegant and expressive; it pleased me more peculiarly, because it was entirely adapted to the songs, and attempted nothing beyond the author's meaning and humour.

The audience expected rather more exertion from the capering faculties of Mr. LISTON in his dancing character: they expected more of those unhinged vaultings, that graceful dissolution of limb, that abandonment to the languishing feelings, with which Mr. LISTON so inimitably caricatures the elegant nonsense of the Opera-dancers. What he did, however, was in his best style of humourous indifference. Mr. ALLINGHAM seems to have well understood his peculiar style of acting. The remonstrance which *Mr. Caper* makes to the furious young Lady whom he has forsaken—

Miss Serena. Oh, I could tear myself to pieces!
Caper. I know you could, but don't;

was spoken with all the dry indifference of a man who begs you not to jog him while writing. Mr. FAWCETT represented the poet, because, I suppose, there were some songs in the character: his appearance certainly did no honour to the refinement of the muses. It appears to me that LISTON might have had the songs of *Mr. Extempore*, and that the bard should have been personated by Mr. LEWIS, who of all actors has the best conception of a careless and fanciful ardour. I cannot conclude without telling Mrs. C. KEMBLE how interesting she becomes when she represses her vivacity into its natural elegance of play. She performed the Widow with the utmost correctness as well as grace, and shewed a great deal of judgment in preserving the gentility of the mistress during her personation of the maid. Habits of the mind are not so soon changed as habits of the dress.

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FINE ARTS.

MR. REBECCA.

On Monday last, at his lodgings in Oxford-street, died BIAGIO REBECCA, aged 73. He was born in Italy, at Osimo, in the Marca de Ancona, and was educated in painting at the public Academy of the Fine Arts, at Rome.

In 1761 he came into England with Mr. James, as his assistant in Portrait Painting, but that gentleman not meeting with success, they separated, and soon after Rebecca was made an Associate of the Royal Academy, but we do not remember to have seen any of his works in its Exhibitions. Though he drew the human figure correctly, it was devoid of expression. He had no mental powers in historical painting, and of course held no rank in that class of art. No man ever had greater taste in delineating arabesque ornaments, and the *deception* of things animate and inanimate. For his taste in arabesque he received the marked patronage of Sir J. and Lady Griffin, afterwards Lord and Lady Howard, at their elegant mansion, at Audleyend. Those powers were communicated by Mr. West to our gracious King and Queen, who bestowed on him distinguished favours.

Lord Grey de Wilton, with many others of rank and fortune, were desirous of having him and his works at their residencies in the country; but his singular power in deceptions was a perpetual source of surprise and delight, though sometimes of momentary distress and alarm to his employers. The appearance of broken mirrors of great value, and mutilated statues; dirty tea-kettles placed on costly satin sofas, as left by neglectful servants; the rending of splendid canopies and rich hangings; the imitation of men, women and children, so as to deceive their friends and parents, and of domestic animals, their owners; floors of rooms as if on fire from the coals which had fallen from the grates; and all the materials of domestic life, were so accurately imitated, that real cats would seize on his deceptive cats, dogs on his dogs, and poultry fly from his deceptive eagles and hawks. For a few minutes gratification of himself and friends in these deceptions he would secrete himself for weeks. Such were his favourite pursuits, and such was his loss of time. During his last seven years he was reduced to want, and for the last three years the Royal Academy gave him the annual pension it allows to its decayed members, which was his only support. He died, as he lived, in the Roman faith, and was handsomely buried by the direction of Mr. West, and at the expence of the Royal Academy, in St. Pancras church-yard.—He was a man of much modesty as a painter, of simplicity of manners, and of a humane disposition. He had a passion for dress suits of clothes, which he never wore, but had great gratification in looking at in his wardrobe. He delighted in seeing works of nature and art, which he could closely imitate, though several years had elapsed after having seen them. His mental powers were so little exercised that he had nearly lost his native language without acquiring that of the English.

THE DUKE OF KENT.

Kensington Palace, Feb. 21, 1808.

Lieut.-Colonel Vesey is commanded by his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent to request the insertion of the following:—

"Although the Duke of Kent flatters himself that the Officers of the British Army with whom he has had the good fortune of serving in the Mediterranean, America, and the West Indies, will do him the justice to believe, that his absence from Gibraltar at this time, when that fortress is menaced by a formidable attack of the enemy, is not owing to any backwardness on his part to repair to that station to which his duty calls him, or for want of his using his utmost exertions to be allowed to resume the actual command of his government, he feels that he owes it to his own character no less as a man than as a soldier, to make known to them, to the whole army, and to his countrymen in general, the terms on which he felt it his duty to address his Majesty upon this subject, immediately upon the arrival of the last accounts from Gibraltar; and trusts that when these have been perused, he shall stand acquitted in the opinion of his Brother Officers of the Army, and of his Countrymen, of having been deficient in his duty.

"Sire—The letters received by the Mail just arrived from the Mediterranean, having brought the certain information that orders had reached Algeziras from Madrid, immediately to make such preparations in the neighbourhood of Gibraltar as put beyond doubt the intention of the enemy to besiege it, I could not, under such circumstances, reconcile it to my feelings, were I to delay a moment in not only assuring your Majesty of my readiness instantly to go out there, but in earnestly soliciting your sanction for my resuming the duties attached to the commission I have the honour of holding as Governor of that Fortress. To your Majesty, who yourself possess so nice a sense of honour, it is quite unnecessary for me to represent, that on the result of your decision upon this request, which I beg leave in the most dutiful, yet in the strongest manner, to press upon your attention, every thing most dear to me in life, I mean my character as a man, and my professional credit as a soldier, are at stake. I will not, therefore, presume to say more, than that I place those in your Majesty's hands, with no less confidence in your justice as my Sovereign, than in your indulgence as my parent. With every sentiment of the most devoted attachment, and the most dutiful respect, I have the honour to subscribe myself, "Your Majesty's most affectionate Son,

"And most faithful Servant and Subject,

"*To the King.* "Edward."

"The Duke of Kent conceives that it would be superfluous to add any observations upon the foregoing lines, except that he is not going out to Gibraltar, that being a sufficient explanation of the result of his application; and his whole motive of intruding the perusal of them upon the public at this time, being that of clearing his own character from the aspersions that must unavoidably attach to it in consequence of his absence from his Government at such a moment as the present one, were it conceived to be voluntary on his part, or that he had been passive on the occasion."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—The impartial notice which last Sunday introduced the Letter to Lord Folkstone, inclines me to hope that a communication from one who has no *party* attachments whatever, will find a ready admission into the *Examiner*.

It is matter of little moment to the people of England whether their Government be in the hands of this or that set of men, provided they possess talents and integrity. Since the death of Mr. Pitt and Mr Fox, the great majority of thinking persons have cast off that attachment to *party*, which formerly distinguished politicians: they now think that on *some* occasions even those great leaders were not actuated solely by a love for their country: they in short begin to do what they always should have done,—judge for themselves, and try every question upon the broad principles of public utility.—For these several days, there has been a rumour of an approaching change in the Administration, and of disputes in the Cabinet. It is said that the best harmony does not exist between Mr. Canning and his Colleagues. Nothing conclusive is known; but it is generally understood that the Marquis Wellesley is to be the Secretary for the War Department, in the room of Lord Castlereagh, who is to be elevated to the peerage. Equally averse to

all extremes; believing that the true happiness of the country is to be found neither in the wild theories of republicans nor in the harsh system of government by the sword,—it is with me a matter of regret that persons of acknowledged talent and virtue,—men who command the esteem of the wise and good,—should be wanting to fill the high offices of state in a great country like this. The Marquis WELLESLEY is said to possess talents of no mean description; but still it is a subject for consideration how far his political principles accord with the spirit of the English Constitution. The Man who is called upon to give advice to a British Monarch, should be, I think, a strenuous advocate for rational liberty, and an admirer of that manly freedom of opinion which, in allowing others the right of judging of the actions of their rulers, so peculiarly characterizes the people of this country. How far the Noble Marquis is qualified to assist in governing a free, a thinking, and a noble nation, may be gathered from a perusal of the following Edict, issued by him in India for the *regulation*, as it was pleasantly termed, of the Press in that country:—it is really a curious document, and has no doubt been seen by the FRENCH EMPEROR, who *regulates* the French Press on a plan not very dissimilar:—

REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPERS, VIZ.—

1. Every printer of a newspaper to print his name at the bottom of the paper.—2. Every editor and proprietor of a paper to deliver in his name and place of abode to the Secretary to Government.—3. No paper to be published on a Sunday.—4. No paper to be published at all, until it shall have been *previously inspected by the Secretary to the Government*, or by a person authorised by him for that purpose.—5. The penalty for offending against any of the above regulations to be immediate embarkation for Europe.

RULES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE SECRETARIES TO GOVERNMENT IN REVISING THE NEWSPAPERS.

To prevent the publication of—1. All observations on the state of public credit, or the revenues, or the finances of the Company.—2. All observations respecting the embarkation of troops, stores, or specie; or respecting any naval or military preparations whatever.—3. All intelligence respecting the destination of any ships, or the expectation of any, whether belonging to the Company or to individuals.—4. All observations with respect to *the conduct of Government, or any of its Officers, civil or military, marine, commercial, and judicial.*—5. All private scandal, or libels on individuals.—6. All statements with regard to the probability of war or peace between the Company and any of the Native Powers.—7. All observations tending to convey information to an enemy, or to excite alarm or commotion within the Company's territories.—8. The republication of such passages from the European newspapers as may tend to affect the influence and credit of the British peace with the native states.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Lincoln's-Inn, Feb. 25. J. N.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Monday, Feb. 22.

MORRIS *v.* BURDETT.

This was an action by the High Bailiff of Westminster against Sir Francis, for the amount of his bill for the late election, amounting to more than 500l. Many of the items were for the table kept by the plaintiff during the poll, which were not allowed; the bill was therefore reduced to 117l. 8s. 2d. for which sum the Jury found a verdict.

Tuesday, Feb. 23.

THE KING *v.* COLONEL WATSON.

This was a prosecution founded on a criminal information obtained against the defendant for sending several anonymous letters to the prosecutor, General Gwynne, under the signature of "Shock Sam," charging the General with being a scoundrel, and a traitor to his country; also apprising the General that he had left him 500l. in his will, for having enabled the defendant to cheat the country of 50,000l. and his very masterly retreat from a block-house in America, desiring the General to make his peace with God for having seduced a poor woman's daughter at Brighton, and to pay his tap-room score, which had been so long due. General Gwynne proved that he had received the letters, and another signed "Belisarius," which, though a little disguised, was the hand-writing of the defendant. It appeared that the General was President of a Court-Martial, which broke the defendant, in the year 1798, and he never had any intercourse with him but in the capacity of an officer. On the 13th of May last, the General and Colonel Cooper were riding together in Oxford-street, when the defendant came up and accosted the former in these words, lifting his stick, "You scoundrel, you was President of the Court-Martial which broke me, and deprived me of my bread, I'll go into this shop and post you as such." Colonel Cooper corroborated this part of the evidence, and Captain Hunt proved the defendant's hand-writing.

After a most excellent charge from Lord ELLENBOROUGH, the Jury, without hesitation, found the defendant guilty.

THE KING *v.* SAMUEL DOUGLAS.

This prosecution was instituted by the Countess Dowager of Ilchester, for the benefit of the public, against the defendant, who was a porter at the White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, for having defrauded her of the sum of 3s. 4d. in the carriage of a basket of fish from Dorchester. It appeared that frequent complaints had been made against the defendant for extortion in the carriage of parcels, which he was in the habit of delivering, and the parties concerned being desirous of detecting his malpractices, a duplicate of the ticket which was sent with the basket in question, was inclosed in it, stating the real charge to be 6s. 6d. but the defendant, not knowing of this, altered his own to 9s. 10d. which her Ladyship's servant paid him. This was fully proved by Samuel Harris, her Ladyship's servant, and Wm. Robinson, the book-keeper, at the White Horse Cellar.

Mr. LAWES, the defendant's Counsel, took several objections to the indictment, which Lord ELLENBOROUGH over-ruled, and the Jury, therefore, found him Guilty.

Mr. GURNEY, as leading Counsel for the prosecution, observed to his Lordship, that the reason why this severe course had been adopted towards the defendant was, that he had defrauded the Countess, in this way, no less than seven times!

Wednesday, Feb. 24.

The important case of CURLING *v.* the TREASURER of the WEST INDIA DOCKS, relative to the loss of the ship Resolution, at the entrance of the Docks, occupied the attention of the Court from its opening till seven in the evening, when a verdict was given for the Plaintiff on several of the counts. The amount of damages, according to a previous agreement, to be left to arbitration.

The Court of Common Pleas was occupied all Monday in the further hearing of the case of Frost *v.* Burdett, which was determined in favour of Sir Francis.

OLD BAILEY.

Tuesday, Feb. 23.

This day the sessions ended, when sentence of death was passed on Catherine Jennings, for uttering a counterfeit shilling; Mary Fletcher, for privately stealing 2l. 15s.; E. Tobin and E. Hickney, for stealing goods in a dwelling-house; Ann Holston, alias Playfair, for stealing bank notes and money in a dwelling-house; C. Pickever and Wm. Walker, for highway robberies; F. Polman, for stealing a 100l. bank note; and E. Westbrook, for stealing goods in dwelling-houses.—J. Peak, for having forged notes in his possession, was ordered to be transported for 14 years; nineteen were ordered to be transported for seven years; seven were ordered to be imprisoned in the House of Correction, Clerkenwell, for 12 months; seventeen for six months; ten in Newgate for various periods; ten to be privately, and three publicly whipped; and twenty-six discharged by proclamation.

POLICE.

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

On Wednesday, *Elizabeth Thompson* was charged with robbing an apprentice to a tradesman in Bloomsbury. It appeared that the youth, who is about 16, was passing through Keppel-street, Bedford-square, the preceding evening, when he was followed by the prisoner, who, on his arrival at the door of a loathsome passage, forced him in, and thence into a dark room, where another woman was waiting. The most horrible imprecations and threats demanded silence in the youth, who was stripped of part of his cloathing and a seven-shillings piece. He was then forced through another entrance, into the street, but on discovering the passage where he was first forced down, a watchman secured the prisoner.—She was fully committed for trial.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Tuesday morning a young gentleman, residing in East-street, Red Lion-square, was bound over to keep the peace towards Mr. Smythe, the only son of Sir Edward Smythe, in Warwickshire, Baronet, in consequence of having sent a challenge to the latter, for his conduct in a proposed matrimonial alliance.

A young gentleman, of the name of Richardson, was wounded in the arm in a duel, on Saturday week, on Putney-common, with a Naval Officer. The meeting took place in consequence of a dispute at one of the theatres.—The wound is not considered dangerous.

On Thursday morning some carpenters, who were preparing the mansion of Lady F. Moreton, in Lower Brook-street, knocked at the door, but could not gain admittance; and at ten o'clock it was judged necessary to force an entrance, when Mrs. Deacon, the house-keeper, who was the only occupier, could not be found, until they proceeded to the back kitchen, when they discovered her lying dead. From appearances it was at first supposed she had been murdered, as a wound had been inflicted in the inside of the bend of the left arm, but there was scarcely any blood to be seen, although it was two inches in depth across the veins. Dr. Heaviside, who had endeavoured to restore animation, made the case known at Marlborough-street Office, and Mr. Butler, the clerk, and Hamilton, the officer, were dispatched to make the necessary investigation. After searching the house for above an hour, they at length discovered, in the front kitchen, which was darkened, a chair and a counterpane covered with blood, and a pair of large scissars, which were also bloody, on the floor.—At the side of the chair was a large bucket, nearly half full of blood, so that it was evident that the deceased had bled into the bucket, and the only conclusion that can be drawn is, that the unfortunate woman struggled into the back kitchen, after having nearly bled to death. It is not surmised what were her motives. On the preceding day she had received a letter from Lady Moreton to get the house ready for her reception.—An Inquisition was on Friday held on the body. The evidence did not furnish any thing further on the subject, excepting that in the pocket of the deceased was found a letter addressed to a Mrs. Buckaman, in whose service she had lived 26 years. It was incoherently written, and stated that she had always been unhappy since she left her service; but that she should meet her again where there was no servitude, &c. A servant of Lord Ducie proved that the deceased was in a desponding state on the day preceding her death. It is a singular circumstance, that the deceased, after inflicting the wound, had applied bandages to stop the effusion of blood.—Verdict, lunacy.

On Wednesday morning, Mr. Taylor, wheelwright, of Brewer-street, Westminster, was found suspended by a cord from a beam in his dwelling-house; he was cut down, and every means used for the restoration of life, but without effect. He had been observed to be in a low way for some time.

A few days ago (says a Foreign Journal), a dreadful murder was committed near Dillenburgh. A man got into the hotel of the Countess Dowager of Montelebate. He knocked at the kitchen door; it was opened by a girl, whom he stabbed. He then proceeded to the antichamber, where he found the lady's maid; he stabbed her also, and then entered the room where the Countess was sitting, whom the monster immediately stabbed several times.—The lady's maid crawled down stairs to give the alarm; but when assistance arrived the murderer was gone. She gave a description of his person, and lingered till the next day. All three were buried at the same time.

MARRIAGES.

At St. George's, Hanover-square, Mr. Hoare to Miss C. Deering, only daughter of Sir E. Deering.

DEATHS.

On Sunday night, at his house in Lower Brook-street, Lord Lake. His Lordship was taken ill at the Court-martial at Chelsea, on Thursday week.

Last week, Francis, the second son of Mr. Matchem, by the sister of the deceased Lord Nelson, a very promising youth of 12 years of age, of an inflammation in the bowels.

On Sunday, at his house in Portman-square, Mr. Serjeant Hill, in the 92d year of his age.

On the 1st inst. at Eccles-street, Dublin, aged 80, Mrs. Elizabeth Farren, a maiden lady, paternal aunt to the Countess of Derby.

On the 29th ult. at his house in Cavendish-row, Dublin, Dudley Loftus, Esq. who was married to Lady Jane Gore, sister to the Marchioness of Abercorn, and daughter to the Earl of Arran.

At Cambridge, the Rev. Dr. Barker, Master of Christ's College, in his 83d year. Mrs. Barker, who was nearly of the same age, was so affected at his death as to survive him only one day.

At Kinghtstown, in the county of Meath, Sir James De Bath, Bart.

On the 28th ult. at Lowry's Mill, near Bellingham, Mr. Robley, aged upwards of 100 years: he enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good health until a few weeks of his death. He had children, grand-children, and great grand-children, all living.

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